

**REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action dated 3/19/03, claims 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 are amended, claims 1 and 11-29 are canceled, and claims 30-43 are added. Claims 2-10 and 30-43 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

**REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103**

**I.** Claims 11-13, 20, 21 and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Umeda (JP# 06-67141).

The rejection is moot as to canceled claims 11-29.

**II.** Claims 1-10 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Umeda (JP# 06-67141) in view of Takano et al., relied upon for disclosing an image forming apparatus where a medium cassette 1 has a data indicating means 12 which indicates the attributes of the recording medium within the medium cassette and a reading means for reading out the data.

The rejection is moot as to canceled claims 1 and 14-19, claims 2-10 being dependent claims now depending from new claim 30.

**III.** New claims 30-43 are submitted with claims 30, 34, 39, 40, 41 and 43 being independent claims, and claims 31-33, 35-38 and 42 be dependent claims.

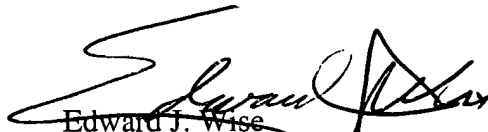
**CONCLUSION**

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

  
Edward J. Wise  
Registration No. 34,523

600 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3096  
(202) 756-8000 EJW:kfb/cac/ajb  
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087  
**Date: August \_\_\_\_, 2003**